

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 074554
ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 R

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-----098137 231021Z /23

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, KS

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: GILBERT ASSOCIATES' AGENCY PROBLEM

1. GILBERT ASSOCIATES OF READING, PA CALLED MAJOR EXPORT

PROJECTS DIVISION USDOC TODAY TO EXPLAIN THE DIFFICULTY IT
HAS ENCOUNTERED OVER ITS AGENCY AGREEMENT WITH CHAN Y SUNG.
GILBERT TOLD MEPD THAT CHAN Y SUNG IS THE FORMER OWNER OF
SHIN A. ENGINEERS. GILBERT'S AGREEMENT IS WITH CHAN Y SUNG
HIMSELF WHEREAS OTHER U.S. FIRMS HAVE AGREEMENTS WITH
SHIN A. GILBERT HAS LEARNED THAT CHAN Y SUNG HAS FLED
KOREA WHERE HE WAS IN DEBT TO THE TUNE OF THREE MILLION
DOLLARS. REPORTEDLY THE ROKG HAS A WARRANT FOR HIS ARREST
SHOULD HE RETURN TO KOREA AND MEANWHILE THE ROKG HAS
CONFISCATED CHAN Y SUNG'S BUSINESS, HOUSE AND CARS. THE
BUSINESS IS REPORTEDLY NOW IN THE HANDS OF TWO OTHER
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KOREAN BUSINESSMEN AND IS ABLE TO CONTINUE TO ACT AS AGENCY
FOR U.S. CONCERNS. CHAN Y SUNG, NOW APPARENTLY RESIDENT IN
CALIFORNIA, WOULD SEEM TO BE UNABLE TO CARRY OUT HIS DUTIES
AS AGENT BUT HAS INSTRUCTED GILBERT TO DISCONTINUE SENDING
HIS CHECKS TO KOREA, RATHER, TO SEND THEM TO CALIFORNIA.

2. GILBERT UNDERSTANDS THAT THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE KOREAN

HERALD OF DECEMBER 27 CARRIED A STORY ON CHAN Y SUNG'S
DIFFICULTIES. GILBERT WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE EMBASSY
OBTAINING COPY OF THIS STORY AND AIR POUCH TO USDOC
ATTN: MEPD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ALSO MUCH APPRECIATED
WOULD BE WHATEVER ADDITIONAL INFO EMBASSY MAY HAVE ON
THESE DEVELOPMENTS.

3. FYI. GILBERT IS PUTTING CHAN Y SUNG'S CHECKS IN AN
ESCROW ACCOUNT PENDING RECEIPT OF HARD FACTS RATHER THAN
RUMOR REGARDING THE SITUATION. VANCE

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